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THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

May 9, 1973

Dr. Frederic W. Nordsiek
The Council for Tobacco Research - U.S.A., Inc.
110 East 59th Street
New York, N. Y. 10022

Dear Dr. Nordsiek:

The project "Neuropsychopharmacological Effects of Chronic Nicotine" submitted by Edward F. Domino proposes to test the effects of chronic administration of nicotine on three behavioral tasks with rats and one with mice. These are reasonably representative samples of behavioral tasks out of a much larger population of such tasks. No rationale is given for the selection of these particular tasks and evidence is cited for acute effects of nicotine on only one of them, locomotor activity in the mouse.

It also proposes to study the effect of nicotine on brain acetylcholine content and utilization in the rat and, presumably, to correlate the conditions that produce such an effect, if any is found, with the conditions producing behavioral effects, if any, in the three rat tasks, not the mouse one in which an acute effect had been observed. No special rationale for selecting the acetylcholine effect is presented, except of course that nicotinic effects can be produced by acetylcholine so that some feedback inhibition on synthesis could occur.

Finally, it proposes to do an experiment on the shift of EEG activation from the reticular formation to the hippocampus without giving any special rationale for this study.

While the acute-chronic variable is a significant one and there is some reason for each of these studies, the project as a whole certainly is a heterogeneous collection and was not very impressive to me. Perhaps someone more familiar with the literature on nicotine would find justifications which are not specifically presented in the proposal. It probably is worthwhile supporting, provided that you have lots of money or if you know that this is an excellent man.

The other project (from Thomas C. Westfall) has been evaluated by Dr. Larissa Pohorecky, a bright Assistant Professor of Pharmacology in my laboratory. She agrees with my evaluation of the Domino project and believes that the one by Westfall is much better.

Sincerely,

Neal E. Miller
Professor

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/ppvm0000